

BOOK REVIEWS

AN INTEGRATED PRACTICE OF MEDICINE—A Complete General Practice of Medicine from Differential Diagnosis by Presenting Symptoms to Specific Management of the Patient. By Harold Thomas Hyman, M.D., Volumes I, II, III, and IV, and Index. 1184 illustrations, 305 in color. 319 Differential Diagnostic Tables. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company, 1947. Price \$50.00 per set.

At the end of a preface eight and a half pages in length Dr. Hyman writes the following 97 word sentence: "If 'An Integrated Practice of Medicine' fulfills the requirements for which it has been devised, it should be possible for the practitioner, after taking the history and performing the physical examination, to turn to the Index of Differential Diagnosis, obtain a reference to the needed Tables of Differential Diagnosis, establish a definitive diagnosis or be guided to additional examinations and tests by which the diagnosis can be established; and then prepare a therapeutic routine to include symptomatic, specific and prophylactic therapy for the relief or cure of the abnormal manifestation concerning which his patient has consulted him." Surely no writer has ever set himself a more pretentious task in a more pretentious fashion. If one is to believe the author or the advertising matter of the W. B. Saunders publishing company or even the medical editor of *Time* magazine, the author has fully succeeded in this task.

Despite the weight of such authority we refuse to be stampeded into so complete an endorsement. The author has gone mining for gold. He has struck pay dirt, but the ore varies widely in quality. There are many excellent things about the book: A tremendous mass of information is presented in a generally up-to-date manner. The indexing, found separately at the end of each volume and in a separate volume for the entire work, is altogether admirable. The cross-indexing throughout the four volumes ties them together more inextricably than any other lengthy work with which the reviewer is acquainted. The photographic illustrations are numerous and generally good.

"Integrated Practice" is a medical almanac, chuck-full of all kinds of medical information. Although quite a number of co-authors cooperated in the writing of different sections, one has to look too diligently to find the acknowledgment of their work (at the beginning of the section or of the book). It is unlike the average almanac in that the dominating personality of the senior author keeps interrupting the facts with his opinions and keeps substituting his philosophy for techniques. He has certain concepts not universally accepted by the general body of medical authority and utilizes a textbook to spread his doctrines.

Except for the illustrations there are very few acknowledgments of source material or of original work, no matter how recent. It is felt that a short number of references to recent work would be desirable at the end of each chapter.

The tables of differential diagnosis are numerous and cover a vast field. They are not constant

in their relation to the principal subject involved. For example, the table on Tympanites comes on page 1878 after the discussion on intestinal obstruction. But on page 1880 the table on Pain in the Right Lower Quadrant is presented before the discussion of acute appendicitis. The tables are not as uniformly inclusive as one might wish. The table on Pain in the Right Upper Quadrant does not list inflammations of the diaphragm, perihepatitis, Laennec's cirrhosis, or the fatty liver of alcoholism, which are surely more likely to be encountered by the general practitioner than hypertrophic cirrhosis of Hanot, the existence of which is questionable.

The senior author states that he himself has deliberately written the section on the Nervous System including Psychiatry in the belief that his exposition will meet the need of the practitioner better than that of an author with more formal training. The reviewer is compelled to the view that more knowledge is a larger argument than less training. The presentation on intracranial injuries (pages 1450 to 1455) is poor. The course and treatment of cerebral concussion are not clearly presented. The syndrome is discussed as a phenomenon of the prize ring. Automobile accidents, which are more common, are not mentioned. A dilemma is posed for the reader on page 1295. The author generalizes that "the treatment of coma cannot be carried out with intelligence until the causative factor is elucidated." But shortly afterward he specifies "if spinal fluid is turbid, temperature is elevated or leukocytosis is pronounced, inaugurate . . . penicillin." It is bad that the pupil should use antibiotics without specific reason; it is worse that the teachers should advise this practice.

Certain other errors may be pointed out: On page 959 the statement is made "patent ductus, alone of the congenital cardiac lesions, is accessible to surgery." The published work of Taussig and Blalock on the surgery of cyanotic heart disease antedates this book by many months. The section on coccal infections (page 154) similarly omits mention of Romansky's development of penicillin in beeswax and oil and dogmatizes that if the patient is ambulatory, sulfonamides must be employed. In the discussion of acute appendicitis, anorexia is not mentioned as one of the cardinal symptoms and the statement is made dogmatically (page 1882) that "diarrhea does not occur unless the patient is . . . given a purge." Most surgeons will dispute this.

The Wintrobe method is not mentioned in measuring the sedimentation time of erythrocytes, but is listed immediately afterwards to measure the hematocrit. It is stated wrongly that the tube used requires 3 cc. of blood (instead of 1 cc.).

Most of the tests of liver function are discussed in a general way only. Yet certain tests, used relatively rarely, such as the galactose tolerance, are presented in detail. The technique for the bromo-

sulphthalein excretion test recommends the injection of 2 mg. of the dye per kilo of body weight instead of the more generally accepted 5 mg. per kilo.

The training and the acumen of the radiologist are slurred. Diagnostic roentgenology is completed in the space of three pages. One receives the impression that the only films which need to be referred to the specialist are those of the nasal accessory sinuses, and that "any physician who has learned to operate a motor car and a radio set can learn clinical radiography with slightly greater effort."

At times the text is scholarly, at times very sketchy and even inaccurate. The reviewer doubts that this unevenness of presentation is deliberate. He suspects it may be due to the fact that the senior author is more conversant with some branches of medicine than with some others. He suggests that a second edition of the book might be made a more accurate *Vade Mecum* for the practitioner if various specialists, themselves with a broad general outlook, were given freer rein under the general editorship of the senior author. The general practice of medicine today covers so many subjects with so many details that no one man can master them all—and this fact may be acknowledged freely without loss of stature.

MENSTRUAL DISORDERS AND STERILITY. By Charles Mazer and S. Leon Israel. Second Edition. Completely revised. With 133 illustrations. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, New York, London. Price \$7.50.

Mazer and Israel have written the second addition of "Menstrual Disorders and Sterility." It was written for students and practitioners, but it will be far more valuable to Endocrinologists and those specialists in Obstetrics and Gynecology who have a particular interest in the fields so adequately covered.

The first chapter describes in detail the various gonadotropins. In the second chapter the many uses of the estrogen, both natural and synthetic, are carefully discussed. Progestin and its effects are also carefully described. One is immediately impressed with the wide variation of dosages, effects and results, and it can not be said that this particular chapter will clarify in the minds of the average practitioner just what should be used, and when and how.

Dysmenorrhea, so often neglected in the average textbook, seems to be given a most complete discussion. Many of the therapeutic measures have been given in detail and the postural treatment as devised by Billig and Dick is given due and just consideration. Possibly some readers will feel that too much emphasis has been placed on the use of the endocrines.

The discussion of sterility is well presented, but again the use of the gonadotropins, estrogens and progestin may be too enthusiastically recommended. Special attention is given to the cervical factor in the barren patient, and this seems to comprise the most important portion of the authors' remarks on infertility.

Habitual abortion, as described under relative sterility, seems to show that the authors have brought the text of a rapidly increasing knowledge up to date, and the Rh factor, toxemia of pregnancy and the management of threatened abortion are most satisfactorily discussed.

The book has much to offer to the specialist, but it is probably a little too exhaustive and detailed for ready consumption by the practitioner.

A TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. By J. M. Nielsen, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University of Southern California; Senior Attending Physician (Neurology), Los Angeles County General Hospital; Attending Neurologist, Hospital of the Good Samaritan, Los Angeles, California. Second edition, revised. With 190 illustrations. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, New York City. Price \$7.50.

In an excellent text and reference book on Clinical Neurology, Dr. Nielsen's clear, concise style has allowed him to incorporate in a single volume an amazing mass of neurological data. Unlike the usual text book, this volume combines the essential neuro-anatomy and the symptomatology with the author's extensive clinical experience.

The second edition includes some revised chapters and some additional information of a newer character. This brings the text up-to-date, but this is of minor importance as compared to the manner of presentation of the fundamental syndromes essential to neurological diagnoses.

The chapters dealing with vascular and inflammatory lesions of the brain are excellent. However, the outstanding feature is the discussion of cerebral localization. Short, concise discussion is given of electroencephalography which is well worth reading in view of the extensive use which is being made of this diagnostic method at the present time.

Although classified as a text book of clinical neurology, it is likely that this volume will prove far more valuable as a ready source of reference. A complete source of neurological conditions for those interested not only in internal medicine but in neurology and neurosurgery as well.

HARVEY CUSHING, A Biography. By John F. Fulton. Copyright 1946. First edition, 150 illustrations. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$5.00.

The story of Cushing's life is divided readily into four fairly distinct phases. The first is that of his formal schooling. It includes his graduation from Yale and the years in Harvard Medical School and Hospital up to the time of his departure for Johns Hopkins at the age of 27. Next comes the period of his surgical training and his preceptorship under Professor Halsted. These were the formative years in his surgical development and led to his appointment to the faculty. Then follows his assumption of the Moseley Professorship of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in 1912, and the post of Surgeon-in-Chief at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, where he continued until his retirement in 1932 at the age of 63. The final years were spent at New Haven. These permitted devotion to his